

Texas Disability Integration Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Upcoming Events
- 1** Regional Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) Awareness Seminar for Emergency Management
- 2** Disability Task Force on Emergency Management
- 3** Sub-Committee Update

Upcoming Events

ADA Legacy Tour - March 1 – 4, 2015, Austin

The ADA Legacy Tour is rolling across the country raising awareness and building excitement toward ADA25 – the 25th anniversary of the ADA in 2015. The tour includes several displays related to awareness of the ADA.

For more information go to

<http://www.adalegacy.com/ada25/ada-legacy-tour>.

State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) Annual Registration starts March 15, 2015.

For more information go to

<http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/stear/local.htm>.

About this Newsletter

This newsletter was developed and published by the *Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management*, an advisory group sponsored by the Texas Division of Emergency Management. The newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis and will include information, accomplishments, and initiatives related to emergency management preparedness and response activities at the local, regional, state, and organizational levels that are inclusive of people with disabilities.

If you would like to submit a proposed article, please send an e-mail to denita.powell@dps.texas.gov.

Regional Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) Awareness Seminar for Emergency Management

Melanie Manville

City of Houston Office of Emergency Management

For the past three years, the city of Houston has hosted the “Regional Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) Awareness Seminar for Emergency Management”. The seminars bring together local and regional first responders, emergency management, and FNSS community members to learn and coordinate emergency disaster planning. The seminars cover topics relating to the specific needs of the disable community during a disaster. This past year, topics included: service animal laws and legislation, shelter compliance, accessible communication throughout the disaster cycle, medical equipment needs, and inclusion in the evacuation process. Speakers are chosen by the seminar planning committee made of representatives of both emergency management and members of the FNSS community. This integrated planning team ensures a whole community approach to seminar planning. Each year the planning committee collaborates to choose relevant and significant topics to be covered during the seminar. Post-seminar surveys show the seminar is not only valued, educational event, but an important networking opportunity for members of both the emergency management and FNSS community. The connections and partnerships created during the planning and the seminar itself; ensure an integrated approach to emergency planning that will last long after the seminar is finished.

The seminar is traditionally held at one of the city’s multi-services centers, Metropolitan Multi-Services Center (MMSC) to showcase the city’s efforts to reach out to communities by offering multiple services for all people. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department’s

Adaptive Recreation Section located at MMSC was created to offer a variety of recreational, sporting and quality of life programming for people with disabilities. Opportunities include structured classes, a fitness room, and a full court gym, an indoor heated pool for use by people with disabilities, a beep baseball field, a tennis court, a quarter-mile track and an urban garden.

The "FNSS for EM" seminar will continue to be an important event for the Houston region as more diverse, whole community planning continues to be a mainstay for emergency management everywhere. The connections and partnerships created during the planning and the seminar itself; ensure an integrated approach to emergency planning that will last long after the seminar is finished.

Videos and transcripts of the presentations from this seminar can be found at
<http://www.houstonuasi.com/go/doctype/1532/107383>.

If you have questions pertaining to this program, please feel free to contact me at
melanie.manville@houstontx.gov.



Laura Stough, Ph.D. presents on the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University at the Regional FNSS Awareness Seminar for Emergency Management in Houston, TX.

Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management

Katie Sanches

Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management Chair

The Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management was formed under the leadership of the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities in late 2011. This advisory group is tasked with developing and providing guidance and information related to preparedness and response that is inclusive of people with disabilities to state and local emergency managers. This task force is made up of emergency management professionals, disability stakeholder organizations, and rehabilitation and independent living professionals. Over the last 2 ½ years, this group and its subcommittees has developed guidance documents, training curriculum, and outreach initiatives.

The task force has four assigned sub-committees:

- Outreach and Effective Communications
- Functional Needs Support Services
- Training
- Planning

The subcommittees are actively recruiting members to assist with ongoing initiatives. Although, the meetings are held in Austin, conference calls and webinar participation are always available. We encourage people with planning, training, and preparedness experience, and disability stakeholders who are interested in assisting with this endeavor are to join our groups. See points of contact of subcommittee chairs on the last page of this newsletter for contact information.

Subcommittee Update

Each newsletter will feature an update on an initiative from one of the subcommittees on the Disability Task Force on Emergency Management.

Training

Danielle Hesse

*Chair, Disability Task Force on Emergency Management
Training Subcommittee Chair*

The Training Subcommittee is tasked by the Texas Disability Taskforce to develop and deliver disability awareness training and to support the development of disability integration and functional needs support services into current Texas emergency management and public health training programs.

Emergency Planning for People with Access and Functional Needs Training Course – T-197

During 2013, the subcommittee, in coordination with the TDEM Training Unit, diligently worked to rewrite the G-197-Emergency Planning for People with Access and Functional Needs course. The objective of this update was to incorporate people first language, new shelter guidance established by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and address the whole community concept during planning and preparedness activities. Since the completion of the rewrite, the course has been changed to Texas 197 course. We also found added benefit by including a Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services Resource Specialist to the course delivery. This individual enhances the course by adding personal stories and emphasis on the importance of planning for those with functional and access needs. To date TDEM has hosted three T-197 training courses around the state and feedback from local governments has been positive.

If you are interested in joining the Training Subcommittee, please contact Danielle Hesse at danielle.hesse@dshs.state.tx.us.

Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management Membership

Katie Sanches, Chair

Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Russell Cook, Vice Chair

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

Subcommittee Chairs

Disability Outreach and Effective Communications

Russell Cook – russell.cook@dads.state.tx.us

Planning

Dan Price – dan.price@dps.texas.gov

Training

Danielle Hesse – danielle.hesse@dshs.state.tx.us

FNSS

Denita Powell – denita.powell@dps.texas.gov

Texas Centers for Independent Living
Texas Mayor's Committees for People with Disabilities
Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
Texas Association for the Deaf
Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Texas Council of Community Centers
Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders
Texas Chapter for the American Foundation for the Blind
American Council of the Blind
National Federation of the Blind of Texas
Texas Paralyzed Veterans of America
Texas Deaf Blind Multi-Handicapped Association
Texas Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Texas Department of State Health Services
Texas Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management
Dr. Lex Frieden, Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Texas Association of Regional Council
FEMA Disability Integration Coordinator Region VI
City of Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management
City of San Antonio Office of Emergency Management
City of Austin Health Department